

Glenda Ritz, NBCT
Indiana Superintendent of Public Instruction

June 30, 2014

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I am writing to request a one-year extension of Indiana's ESEA flexibility. This will allow Indiana to implement ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

Indiana seeks to extend ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014–2015 school year. The implementation of the flexibility described in this request will enhance the ability of the Indiana Department of Education and the local school systems to increase the quality of instruction for all students. Indiana believes that the flexibility of the waiver has allowed the State and the Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to focus on implementing college and career ready standards while preparing for transition to college and career ready aligned assessments. This waiver has also allowed Indiana to create a strong accountability system that includes student growth measures. Through the waiver, Indiana has implemented a rigorous educator effectiveness system to ensure a high level of professional quality. In addition, the waiver has put in place a robust monitoring and technical assistance system to improve all schools.

Extension of Indiana's ESEA flexibility through the end of the 2014–2015 school is also in the public interest because the extension supports Indiana's continued focus on ensuring students graduate college and career ready, supports efforts to improve all schools, and supports the closing of achievement gaps.

As part of the extension process, the Indiana Department of Education proposes changes to its currently approved ESEA flexibility request. Attached please find the following documents:

- (1) a completed amendment request template, reflecting the necessary consultation of stakeholders and describing any substantive amendments the State is making to its approved request, including those required to address ESEA flexibility Part B monitoring "next steps," conditions on the State's request.
- (2) a redlined version of the Indiana's currently approved ESEA flexibility request reflecting all proposed changes;
- (3) final copy of ESEA flexibility request, (absent red line) including high quality plans, and;
- (4) any additional evidence or documentation required to support the extension request.

I understand that these documents will be reviewed to ensure that they comply with the principles and timelines of ESEA flexibility.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Signed,

Glenda Ritz, NBCT

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- Attachments (as appropriate)
  (1) Completed amendment request template
  (2) Red-lined version of ESEA flexibility request
  (3) Final version (absent red-line), including high quality plans
  (4) Additional evidence or documentation supporting the extension request